

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00499 301227Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
-----007508 301253Z /43

R 300915Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5802
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, LU
SUBJECT: THORN REACTS STRONGLY TO POSSIBLE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
MOVE TO BRUSSELS

1. OPENING DEBATE JUNE 29 IN LUXEMBOURG CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ON
DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS MARKED BY
PRIME MINISTER THORN'S STRONG REACTION TO RUMORS THAT
ENLARGED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE LOCATED IN BRUSSELS.
THORN WAS REACTING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, WHICH WELL-INFORMED
SOURCES HERE SAY ARE AUTHENTIC, THAT THE SECRETARIAT OF
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS NEGOTIATING THE RENTAL OF SOME
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55,000 SQUARE METERS OF OFFICE SPACE (ABOUT 600 OFFICES)
WITH THE OWNERS OF THE FORMER BANQUE LAMBERT BUILDING
IN BRUSSELS. THORN POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE 4 OF THE 1965
TREATIES STIPULATES THAT "THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ASSEMBLY AND RELATED SERVICES WILL REMAIN IN LUXEMBOURG."
HE PROMISED TO OPPOSE AS FORCEFULLY AS POSSIBLE THE
SECRETARIAT'S INITIATIVE TO ACQUIRE NEW SPACE IN BRUSSELS.

2. EC PARLIAMENTARY SOURCES INDICATE THAT ACQUIRING NEW OFFICE SPACE IN BRUSSELS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO A DIMINUTION OF THE SECRETARIAT'S PRESENCE IN LUXEMBOURG. THEY POINTED OUT THAT AFTER 1978 THE PARLIAMENT WILL CONSIST OF 410 REPRESENTATIVES WHO WILL BE MEETING AND DOING BUSINESS AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME IN BRUSSELS AND THAT NEW SPACE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, HIDE THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF THE PARLIAMENT MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, STRASBOURG AND BRUSSELS IS HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY TO A NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO FEEL THEY SPEND FAR TOO MUCH TIME ON THE ROAD.

3. COMMENT: THORN'S DIRECTEUR DE CABINET, PAUL HELMINGER, CONFIRMED TO US PRIVATELY THAT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SITING PROBLEM IS OF DEEP CONCERN TO LUXEMBOURGERS. THEY ARE WELL AWARE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS AND FEAR SENTIMENT FAVORING PERMANENT MOVE TO BRUSSELS IS SNOWBALLING. HELMINGER ALSO CONFORMED THORN'S DETERMINATION TO OPPOSE THE MOVE AND SAID HE EXPECTED THAT FRANCE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT, PERHAPS DECISIVE, ALLY IN THE FIGHT. HE ADDED THAT THORN AND OTHERS IN THE GOL RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF STRASBOURG AND BRUSSELS AS WELL AS LUXEMBOURG FOR SITING PARLIAMENT, BUT WILL INSIST THAT A DECISION BE TAKEN DELIBERATELY BY THE MEMBER

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STATES RATHER THAN BY FAIT ACCOMPLI. LOWENSTEIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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